

CLAIMS

The claims as pending and indicated allowable are:

1. (previously presented): A method for cleaving cellular chromatin in a region of interest, the method comprising:
 - (a) selecting the region of interest;
 - (b) engineering a first zinc finger binding domain to bind to a first nucleotide sequence in the region of interest;
 - (c) providing a second zinc finger binding domain which binds to a second nucleotide sequence in the region of interest, wherein the second sequence is located between 2 and 50 nucleotides from the first sequence;
 - (d) expressing a first fusion protein in the cell, the first fusion protein comprising the first zinc finger binding domain and a first cleavage half-domain; and
 - (e) expressing a second fusion protein in the cell, the second fusion protein comprising the second zinc finger binding domain and a second cleavage half domain;wherein
 - (i) the first fusion protein binds to the first nucleotide sequence,
 - (ii) the second fusion protein binds to the second nucleotide sequence,
 - (iii) said binding of the first and second fusion proteins positions the cleavage half-domains such that the cellular chromatin is cleaved in the region of interest, and
 - (iv) in at least one of the first or second fusion proteins, the cleavage half-domain is closer to the N-terminus and the zinc finger binding domain is closer to the C-terminus.
2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein cleavage occurs between the first and second nucleotide sequences.
3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the second zinc finger binding domain is engineered to bind to the second nucleotide sequence.

4. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the first and second cleavage half-domains are from the same endonuclease.
5. (original) The method of claim 4 wherein the endonuclease is a Type IIS restriction endonuclease.
6. (original) The method of claim 5 wherein the Type IIS restriction endonuclease is *Fok I*.
7. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the cellular chromatin is in a chromosome.
8. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first cleavage half domain is from a Type IIS restriction endonuclease.
9. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the second cleavage half domain is from a Type IIS restriction endonuclease.
10. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first and second nucleotide sequences are on opposite strands of DNA.
11. (original) The method of claim 10, wherein, in the first and second fusion proteins, the cleavage half-domains are closer to the N-termini and the zinc finger binding domains are closer to the C-termini.
12. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first and second nucleotide sequences are on the same strand of DNA.
13. (original) The method of claim 12 wherein, in the first fusion protein, the cleavage half-domain is closer to the N-terminus and the zinc finger binding domain is closer to

the C-terminus and, in the second fusion protein, the zinc finger binding domain is closer to the N-terminus and the cleavage half-domain is closer to the C-terminus.

14. (original) The method of claim 12 wherein, in the first fusion protein, the zinc finger binding domain is closer to the N-terminus and the cleavage half-domain is closer to the C-terminus and, in the second fusion protein, the cleavage half-domain is closer to the N-terminus and the zinc finger binding domain is closer to the C-terminus.